

SOCIOLOGY

WJEC AS/A2

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

If you have studied Sociology at GCSE we would recommend a grade 5, along with C grades in Maths or Numeracy and English Language. If not studied at GCSE, a B grade in English Language is advisable.

COURSE CONTENT

Unit 1: Acquiring Culture

a) The Core. This involves an introduction to the core concepts in Sociology. We look at how children acquire their gender, class, ethnic and national identity and the process of culture transmission and social control. We examine differences in cultural practices in other societies and investigate whether differences, such as gender, are universal and a result of natural differences or upbringing.

b) Topic - Youth Culture. This involves studying the ways in which the lives of young people differ from adult or child culture. A specific study is made of the spectacular subcultures of the 20th Century such as the Teddy Boys, Mods and Rockers, Skinheads and Punk, along with considering how contemporary landscapes shape youth. The impact of gender, ethnicity, class and nationality on young people's experiences are explored, along with an assessment of why some youth cultures may be delinquent.

Unit 2: Understanding Society and Methods of Sociological Enquiry

a) Sociological Research Methods. In this module, the way sociologists collect their evidence is examined and the strengths and weaknesses of these methods and their practical uses are assessed. Students are given practical opportunities to devise questionnaires and conduct interviews. Students will also gain an appreciation of the ethical considerations required when conducting research.

b) Topic - Education. This involves a study of the British educational system. We examine patterns of achievement between boys and girls, different social classes and ethnic groups. The sociological explanations for these patterns are investigated. We also look at the functions of education and competing theories regarding the purpose of education with reference to contemporary debates and policies.

Unit 3: Power and Control

a) Topic - Crime and Deviance. This involves a detailed study of definitions of what is criminal; ways of measuring crime and the problems of statistics; causes and effects of crime; the role of the media and police and attempts at solving the problem of crime in society. Comparison is made between different social classes, ethnic groups and male/female involvement in crime and explanations of these patterns. Contemporary social policy issues are also discussed. This unit is a firm favourite amongst our students.

Unit 4: Social Inequality and Applied Methods of Sociological Enquiry

a) Applied Sociological Research Skills. Here, the work completed in Year 1 of the course will be re-examined in a more detailed and practical fashion, applying the process of research to actual and novel issues.

b) Social Inequality. This involves an examination of the inequalities of class, gender, age and ethnicity in the contemporary UK, with specific reference to Wales. The patterns of inequality in income and wealth, health, life styles, educational opportunities and involvement in crime are analysed. Theoretical explanations for contemporary patterns in inequality are explored; including Feminism, Marxism and Postmodernism.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The skills you will master by studying A Level Sociology will provide an excellent basis for future study in a variety of disciplines, and are also demanded by a full range of employers. Many of our pupils have gone on to forge successful careers within law, health care and medicine, local government, HR, town planning, journalism and teaching, to name a few. I would strongly recommend studying Sociology to anyone considering careers in the Criminal Justice System, Health Care and Law.



PROFILE

Sociology, simply defined, is the study of how people live in society. The subject explores the way in which people organise their lives, the social institutions that impact upon their behaviour, and the relationships people form with others. During the two year course, we explore diverse issues such as how children learn social behaviour, why girls and boys behave differently, explanations for the crime rates of adolescent boys, if and why there is racism and inequality in contemporary society. Students opting for sociology should be curious about the social world around them and interact critically with society.

CONTACT

Subject Lead: Mrs C Johnson

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

AS Level – Year 12

Unit 1 (AS) 15%

Unit 2 (AS) 25%

A2 Level – Year 13

Unit 3 (A2) 25%

Unit 4 (A2) 35%

All modules are external examinations. AS students will sit unit 1 and unit 2 in the summer term of year 12. A2 students will sit unit 3 and unit 4 in the summer term of year 13.